History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

&

Indian Creek Golf Course

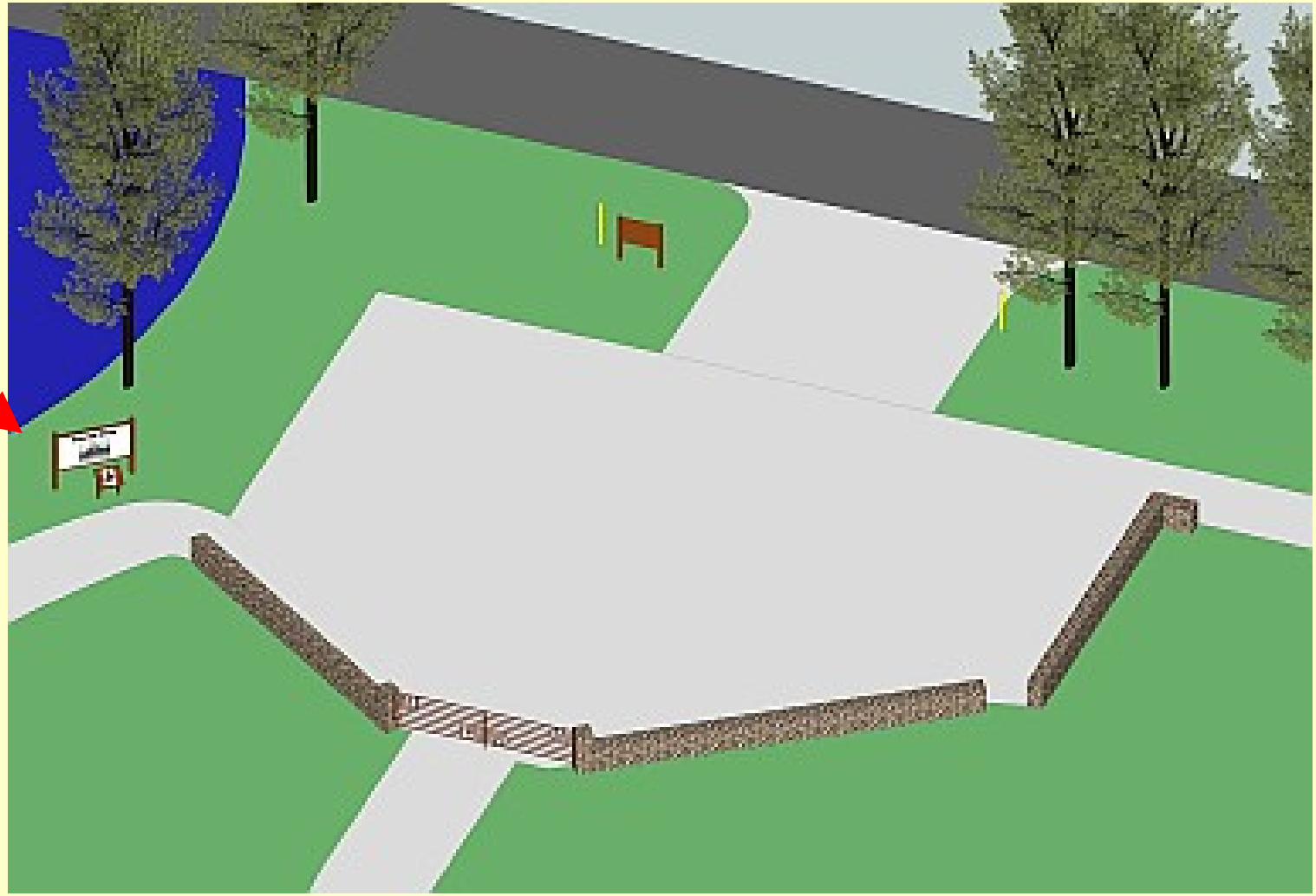
Dale C. Maley

June 2021

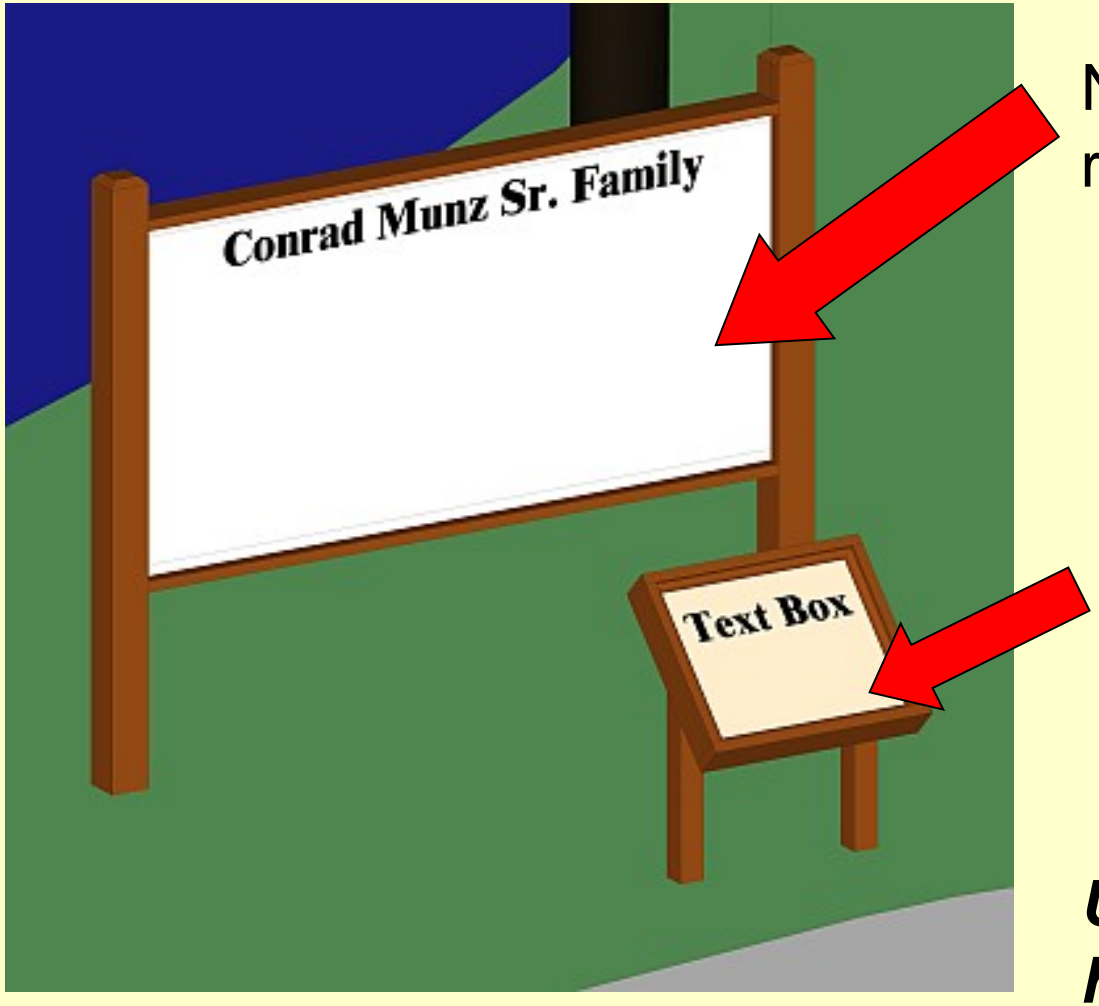
History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

- Historic Mural of Conrad Munz Sr.



History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

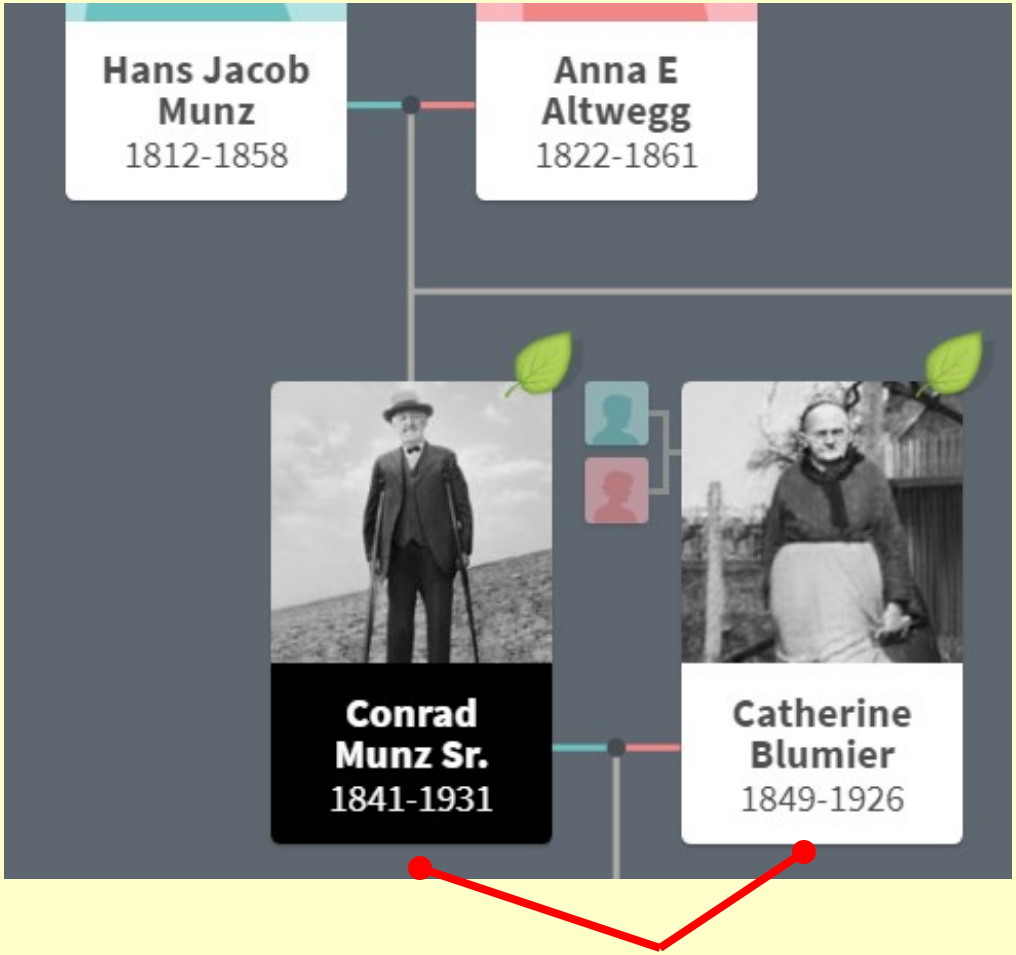


Need 4 to 8 high resolution Images

Need family history in about 300 words max.

Usually, getting the high resolution images is the toughest part!

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

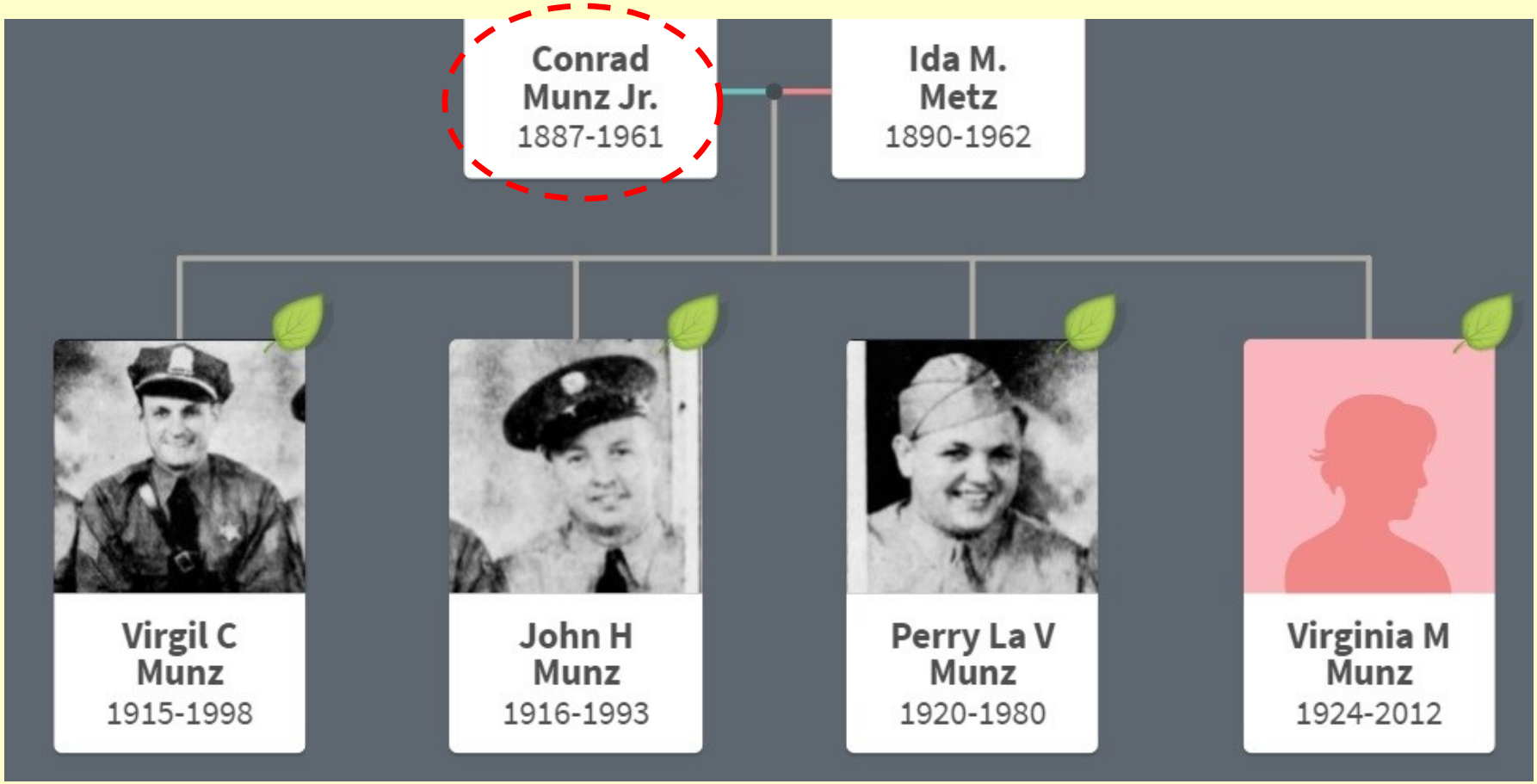


- Both born in Switzerland
- Married in 1871 in Switzerland
- Came to Fairbury around 1873

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

- Conrad Munz Sr. had 9 children
  - -Frieda Munz 1872-1927
  - -Anna Munz 1875-1960
  - -David Munz 1879-1955
  - -Paul Munz 1880-1946
  - -Jonathan Munz 1882-1967
  - -Conrad Munz Jr. 1887-1961
    - -Married Ida M. Metz 1890-1962
  - -Kathrine Munz 1889-1989
  - -Lydia E. Munz 1893-1994
  - -Esther Munz 1895-1990

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family



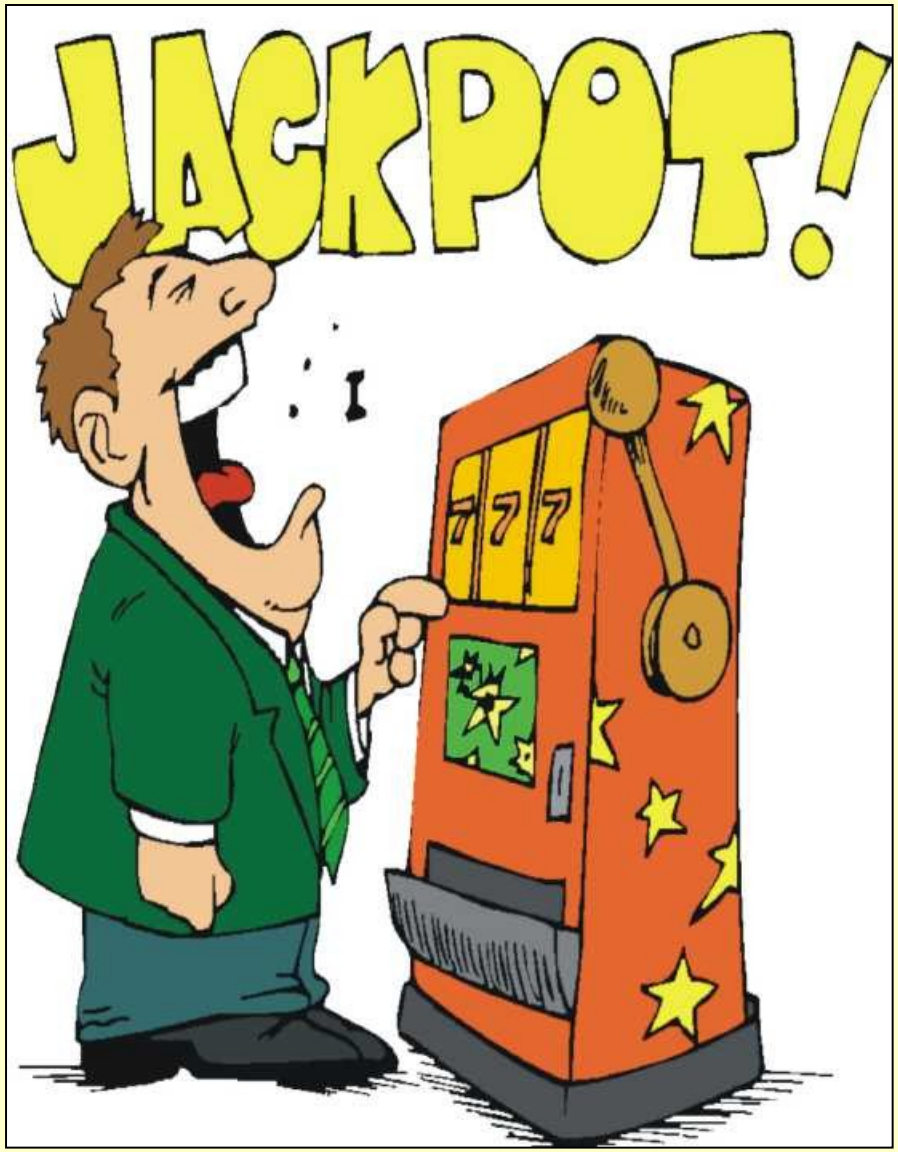
History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

Family Tree
in
Ancestry.com

- 1878 Liv. Co. History Book
- 1888 Liv. Co. History Book
- 1900 Liv. Co. History Book
- Blade
- Pantagraph
- Others

1878 History Book shows him as Farmer in Forrest

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family



Complete biography of Conrad Munz Sr. in 1888 History Book

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

CONRAD MUNZ, whose farm is located on section 25, and is considered the finest in the township of Pleasant Ridge, was born in the canton of Thurgau, Switzerland, on the 29th of April, 1841.

This canton is in the northeastern part of Switzerland, and is separated from Baden by the River Rhine. It has an area of 270 square miles, and a population of about 100,000, of whom four-fifths are Protestants. The surface is undulating and fertile, and the country is watered by the Thur, the Sitter and the Murg Rivers. Agriculture, spinning and weaving are the chief operations of the inhabitants.

The parents of Mr. Munz were Jacob and Elizabeth (Altwegg) Munz, who were natives of Switzerland. The father was born on the 4th of September, 1812 and died June 21, 1858. He was by occupation a farmer and wine dealer, and achieved considerable reputation for the vintage of his wines.

The mother was born in Switzerland July 29, 1822, and died Jan. 3. 1864. They were both devoted to zealous Christian work. The names of the children were as follows: Conrad, Jacob, Ida, Emil, Anna, John, and Wilhelmina, two of whom died in infancy.

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

•Mr. Munz came to America in 1873, and landed in New York October 28. He came almost immediately to Livingston County, and purchased 120 acres of land, to which he has added forty acres.

•He has erected a full complement of farm buildings, all of which are constructed with a view to comfort and beauty. He has put in over 30,000 tiles, and has, therefore, a most completely drained farm. Taking its appointments throughout Mr. Munz has a fine a farm as there is in Pleasant Ridge Township, and he has recently purchased 104 acres of very excellent land near Fairbury. Livingston County.

•August 29, 1871, Mr. Munz married in Switzerland to Catherine Blumer, who was born Feb 2, 1849. To them have been born the following children: Frieda, Annie, David, Paul, Jonathan, and Conrad. Two children died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Munz are both members of the Omish Church in which church they were both raised.

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

•Mr. Munz is an enterprising cattle grower, and raises a considerable number of horses, but does not make any pretensions to cultivating blooded horses. He has on his farm a large vineyard, and each year manufactures from six to eight barrels of wine.

•Mr. Munz procured the papers which made him a full citizen of the United states only about two years ago. He has not taken a very active interest in politics, caring nothing for office-holding, and the only political position he has consented to hold was that of School Director, for which he was eminently fitted by education.

•In his native country, Mr. Munz received a high education, and while in that country he was engaged most of the time as book-keeper and clerk in a large silk and damask factory, a position which required a considerable knowledge of business.

•At one time in Switzerland he was quite wealthy, but reverses overtook him which swept away the greater part of his fortune. He is now one of the most enterprising and substantial men of the township in which he resides and enjoys the confidence of everybody who knows him.

Damask: a figured woven fabric with a pattern visible on both sides, typically used for table linen and upholstery.

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

Entrepreneur: a person who organizes and operates a business or businesses, taking on greater than normal financial risks in order to do so.

1. Grew sorghum and set up molasses mill

2. Took job to buy neighbor's dead horse and discovered Sand Pit

3. Harvested ice from Sand Pit and Indian Creek and sold in Fairbury

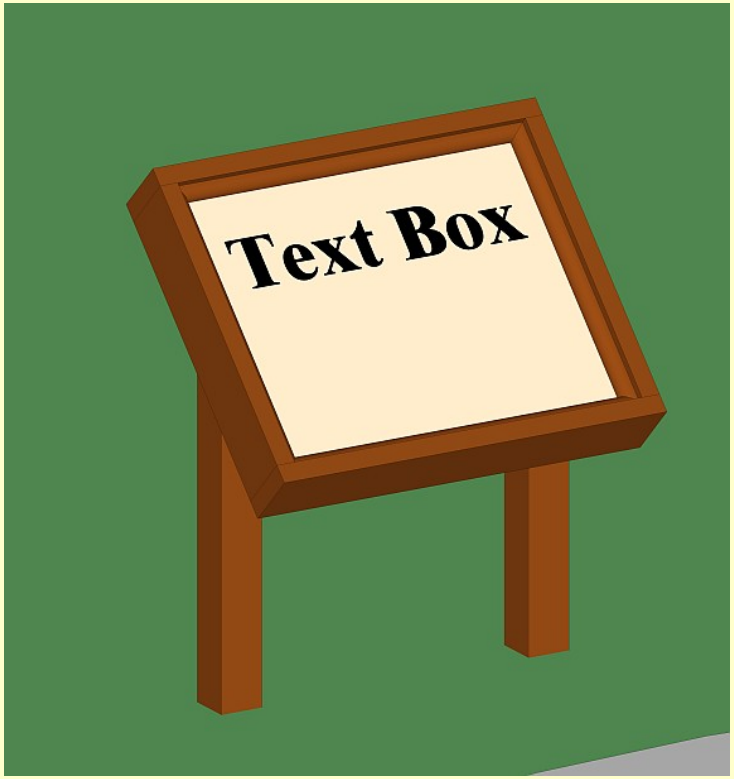
- Son Conrad Munz Jr. took over and ran all 3 businesses in Fairbury.

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

Ancestry.com

1888 Bio

Write 300 word max life story



Blade Articles

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

•Conrad Munz Sr. was born in 1841 and was the son of Jacob Munz and Elizabeth Altweg. In 1871, Conrad Munz Sr. married Catharina Blumer in Switzerland. Two years later, Conrad and Catharina moved from Switzerland to the Forrest area. Son Conrad Munz Jr. was born in Forrest in 1887.

•In 1888, Conrad Munz Sr. moved his family from Forrest to a 200-acre farm just south of Fairbury. He grew sorghum on his farm and built a factory to convert sorghum to molasses. In 1895, Conrad Munz Sr. dug a hole on his farm to bury a dead horse for John Bolliger. He noted that gravel and sand were found just below the topsoil. This discovery prompted the formation of the Fairbury Sand and Gravel Works. Conrad Munz Jr. was the proprietor, and the company was in business from 1895 to 1940.

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

•In 1897, Conrad Munz Sr. was 56 years old. He lost a portion of his right leg in Forrest in a train accident. He survived this horrible accident.

•In 1907, the molasses factory burned down. Conrad Munz Sr. built a new factory with a tall brick smokestack. This second factory eventually also burned down. The tall brick smokestack was removed just a few years ago.

•In 1908, Conrad Munz Sr. embarked on another business enterprise. He built a large ice house just north of the Munz sandpit. The ice house was 60 by 150 feet. The 1920 Blade newspaper pronounced Conrad Munz Jr. the new “Ice Baron of Fairbury.“

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

•In 1931, Conrad Munz Sr. died at age 90. Ice cutting operations ceased in 1945. The icehouse next to the Munz sandpit burned down in 1948. In 1961, Conrad Munz Jr. died.

•Descendants of the Conrad Munz Sr. family have continued to contribute to the success of the Fairbury community.

•This mural was funded through the generosity of the Prairie Lands Foundation.

313 Words

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

- Text Box Done.

- Ready to find Images

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

- February 5, 1992, Blade has history of Munz family

- Info provided by Hartzell Munz (died in 1993)

- Had many photographs

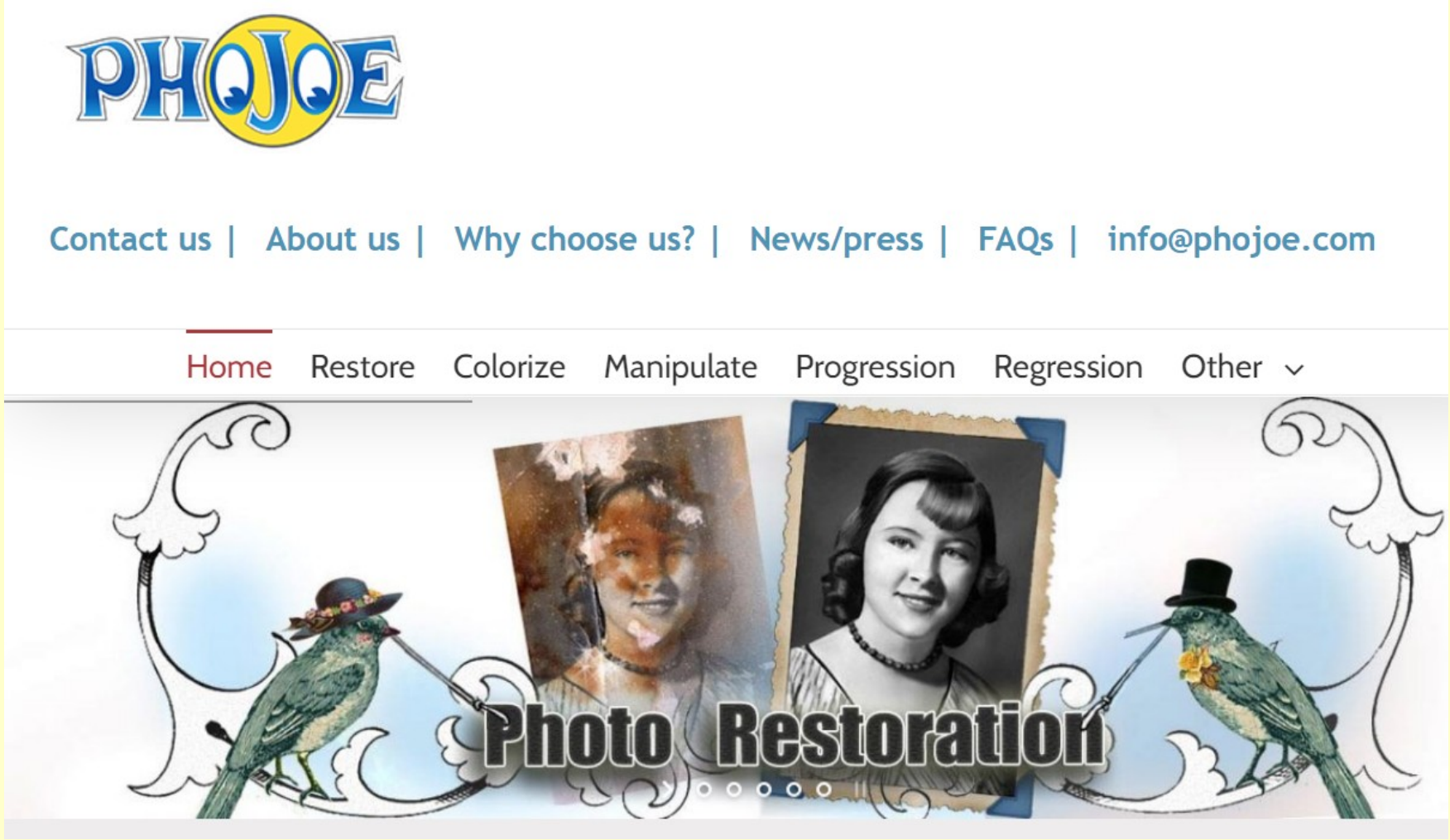
History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

- Photographs of Conrad Munz Sr. and wife were poor quality in Blade

- Tried many free software packages to improve their images
  - None worked ☹

- Searched online and found service that claimed they could repair the photos

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family



History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

- 1st response from company…..

  "Boy, this is a tough job, we are not sure we can do it."

- My reply…..

  "If it was an easy job, I would have done it myself" ☺

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

- 2nd response from company…..

  "Is it ok if we use a painter to touch up their faces?"

- My reply…..

  "Yes" ☺

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

Example of company’s work.

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

Blade Photo

After Phojoe Retouching

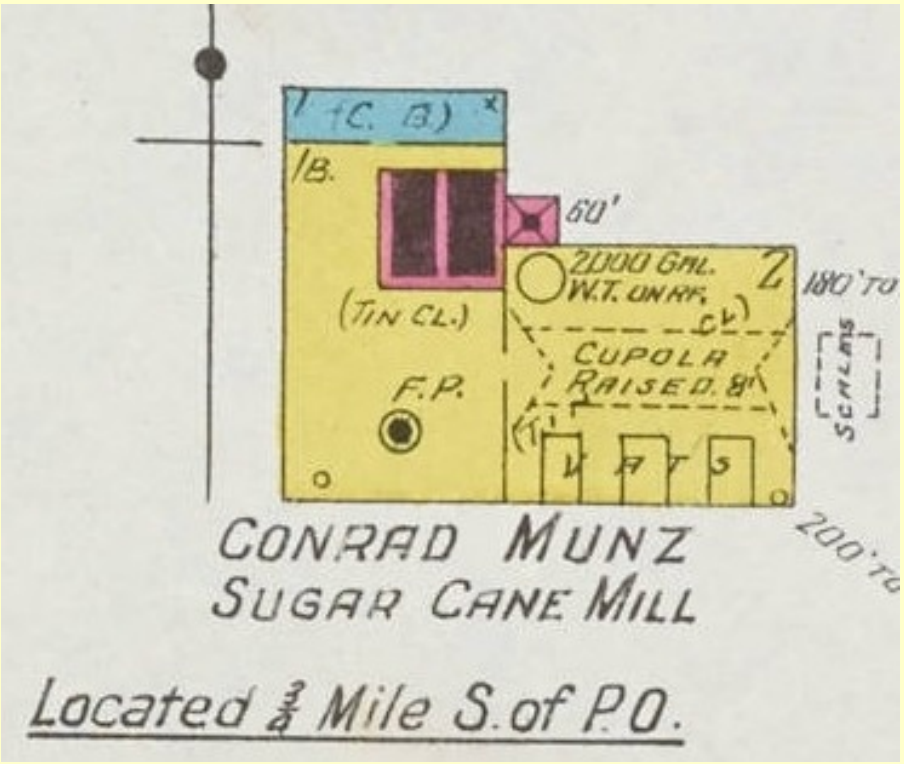
History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

Blade Photo

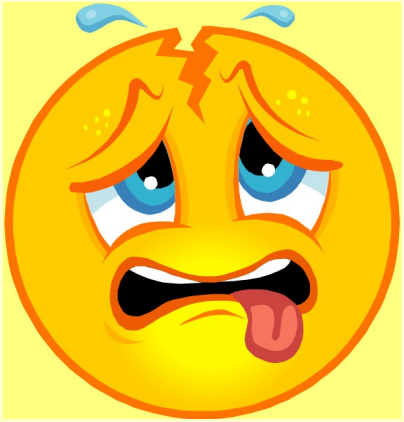
After Phojoe Retouching

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

- Sugar Cane Mill shown on 1911 Sanborn Map of Fairbury



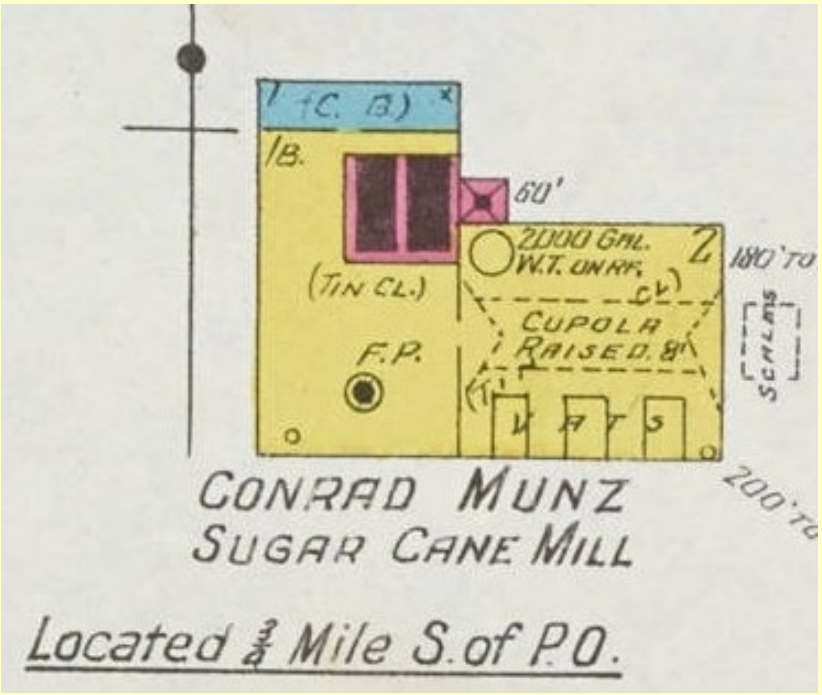
- Resolution not good enough for mural

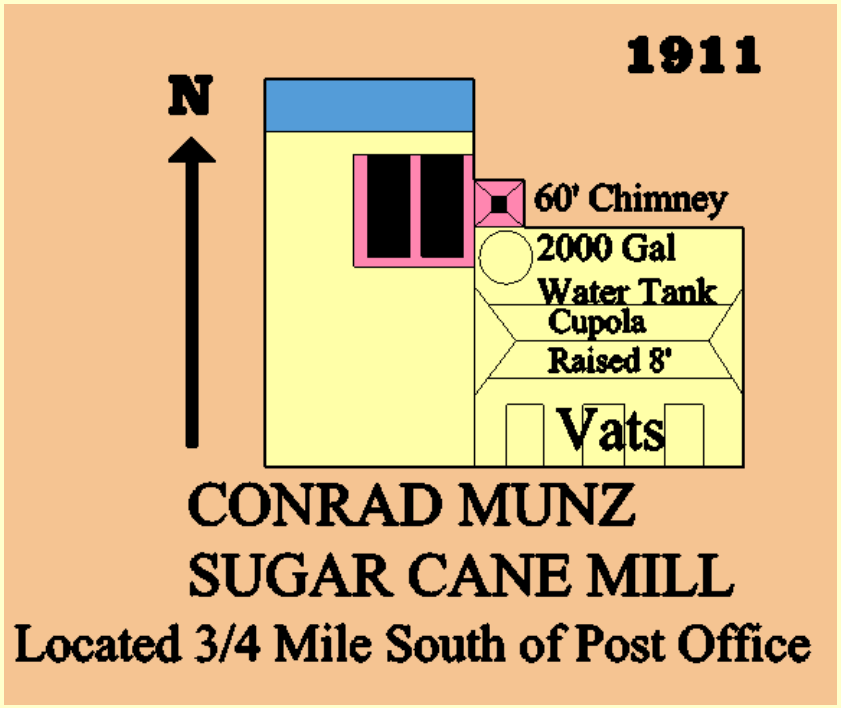


History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

What if I redraw in Sketchup drafting program at high resolution?

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family





1911 Sanborn Map

DC Maley Redraw

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

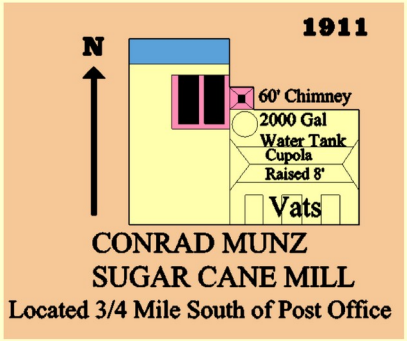
Conrad Munz Sr. Family History

Conrad Munz Sr. (1841-1931)

Catherina Blumier (1849-1926)

Beginning of Munz Sandpit

Sorghum Works in 1906



Cutting Ice on Munz Sandpit in 1941

7 Images Completed

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

Grandson Caleb Maley

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

History of Conrad Munz Sr. Family

History of Golf Course

- 1921 is 1st mention of a Fairbury golf course

  In 1921, Orvin Payne, Bill Braun, and Jack McGreal laid out a three-hole golf course in the pasture of Conrad Munz Sr.

- The Conrad Munz Sr. farm was on South 7th Street, just south of Indian Creek

History of Golf Course

- In the summer of 1926, the Indian Creek Golf Club was formed in Fairbury.

- In July of 1926, construction began on a new nine-hole golf course.

- Twenty acres of land for the golf course was leased from the Conrad Munz Sr. estate.

- Dr. H. N. Leonard was assigned the task of putting the new golf course into shape.

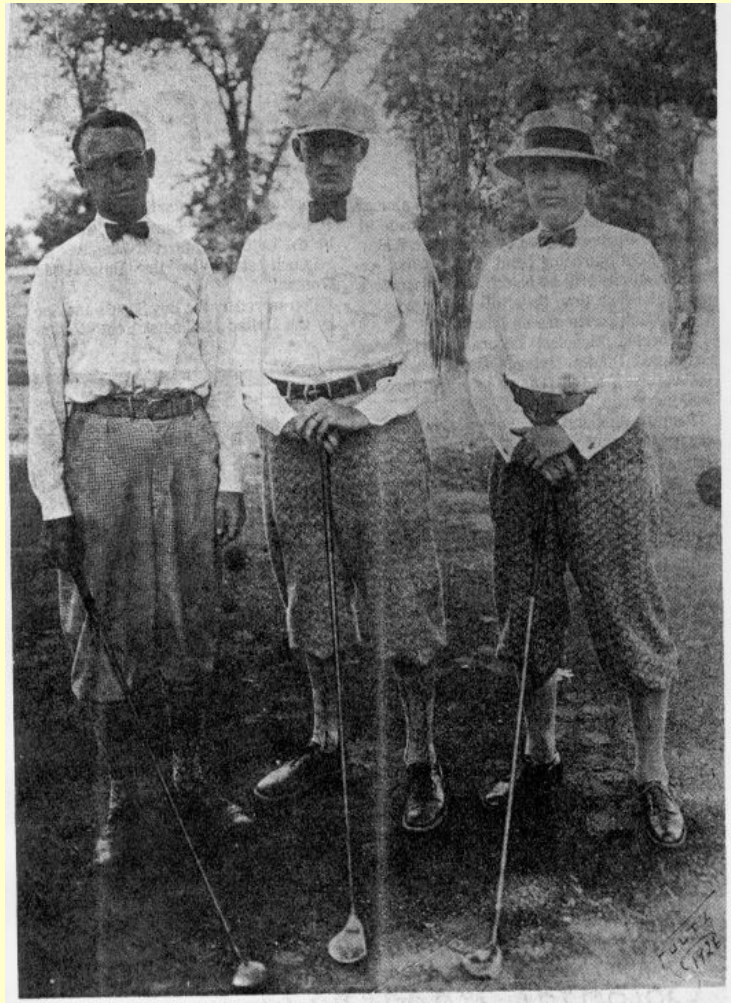
5 Years will be 100th Anniversary

History of Golf Course

- The officers of the Indian Creek Golf Club were:
  - -President, Perry J. Keck
  - -Vice-President, John F. Odell
  - -Secretary-Treasurer, J. W. Wade.

- The members of the Board of Directors were:
  - -Dr. H. N. Leonard
  - -W. B. Mitten
  - -A. K. Hirstein,
  - -C. R. Voris
  - -Frank Phelps.

History of Golf Course



IT WAS 48 YEARS AGO when the first officers of Fairbury's Indian Creek Country club--it was Golf club at that time--posed on one of the new sand greens in 1926. From the left are the late Perry J. Keck, the president; John F. Odell, vice-president and who submitted this photo; and the late James Wade, secretary-treasurer. Photo by Fultz

Left to right:

Perry J. Keck

John F. Odell

James Wade

History of Golf Course

•At least sixty-seven people became the charter members of the Indian Creek Golf Club.

•Of these sixty-seven people, seven of them were women.

•These seven women were:

-Clara Roth
-Agnes Broadwell
-Marguerite Cook
-Cora Evans
-Bertha Eppstein
-Carolyn Blackwood
-Sue Baer

May 1926

History of Golf Course

- July 1926 Blade captured the spirit of the founding members…

> The new golf course is a good thing for the city and place it in the ranks of the cities that not only exist but thrive and advance, not to speak of the fine, clean, healthful out-of-door exercise which they afford.

History of Golf Course

- The 1926 Pantagraph…….

  "sportiest nine-hole course to be found in Central Illinois"

- Course was 1,780 yards long
- 3 of the holes had water hazards
- A par score of 32 was set for the new golf course.
- A large force of volunteers helped to construct the new golf course.

History of Golf Course

Smoothing ball path on Sand Green

History of Golf Course

- Grass Green

-All players get ball on green
-Mark their ball location
-Take turns putting into hole

- Sand Green

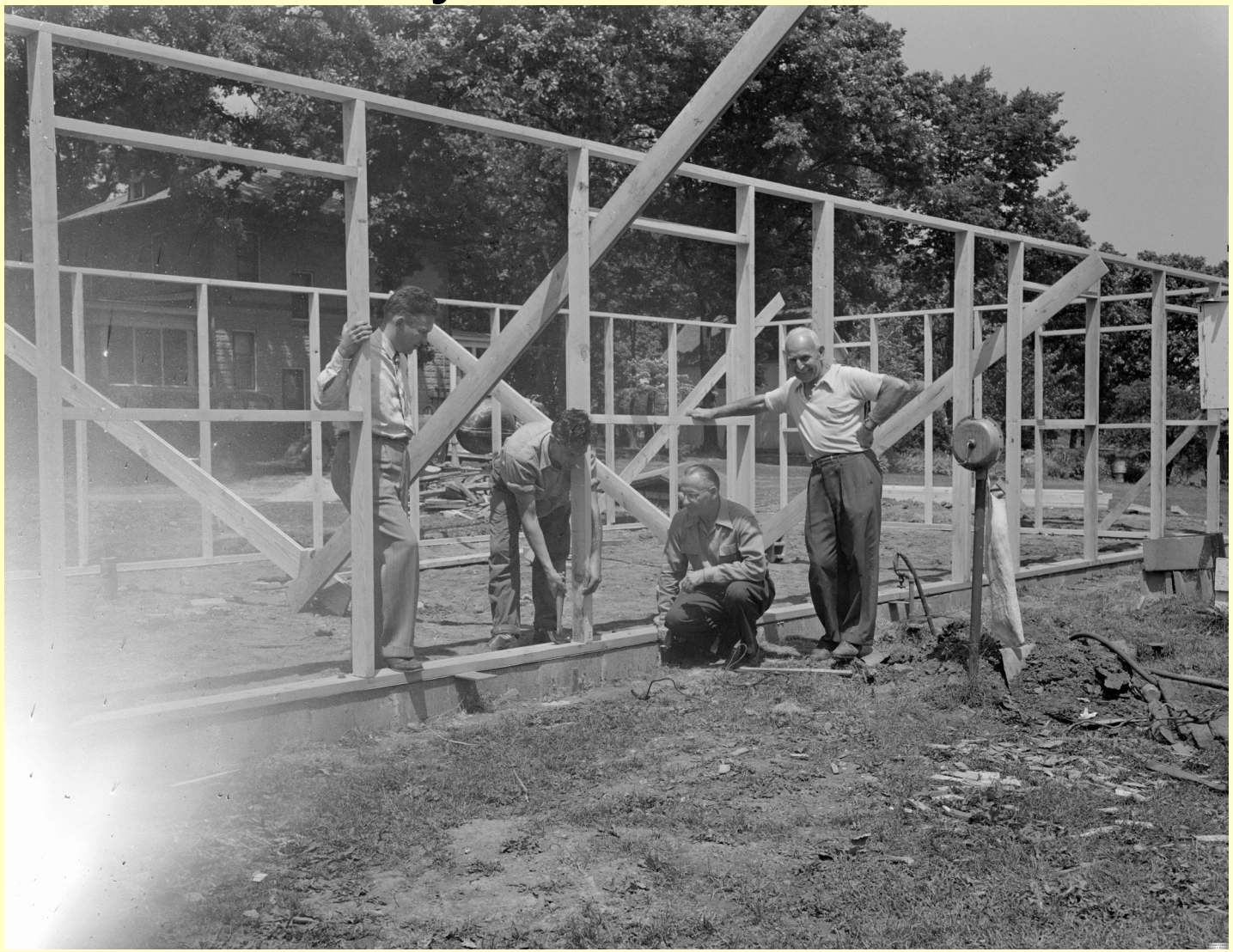
-All players get ball on green
-Smooth path from farthest away ball to hole with smoothing rake
-Take turns putting into hole
-Use same smoothed path but different distances
-Someone smooths the green when done

Why use sand greens?	Very inexpensive compared to maintaining grass

History of Golf Course

- 1948 Clubhouse
  - -Built at foot of 5th Street
  - -Wood Frame 20 by 40 feet
  - -Built by volunteers
    - -W.E. Butcher – Walton's Manager
    - -John Mapel – Harness Maker
    - -Bob Spence
    - -H. J. Finnegan
    - -Cliff Stephens
    - -Ed Bach - Lumberyard
    - -Dr. G. G. Seltman
    - -Buck Morris
    - -Paul Hampsch - Honeggers
    - -John Mapel Jr.

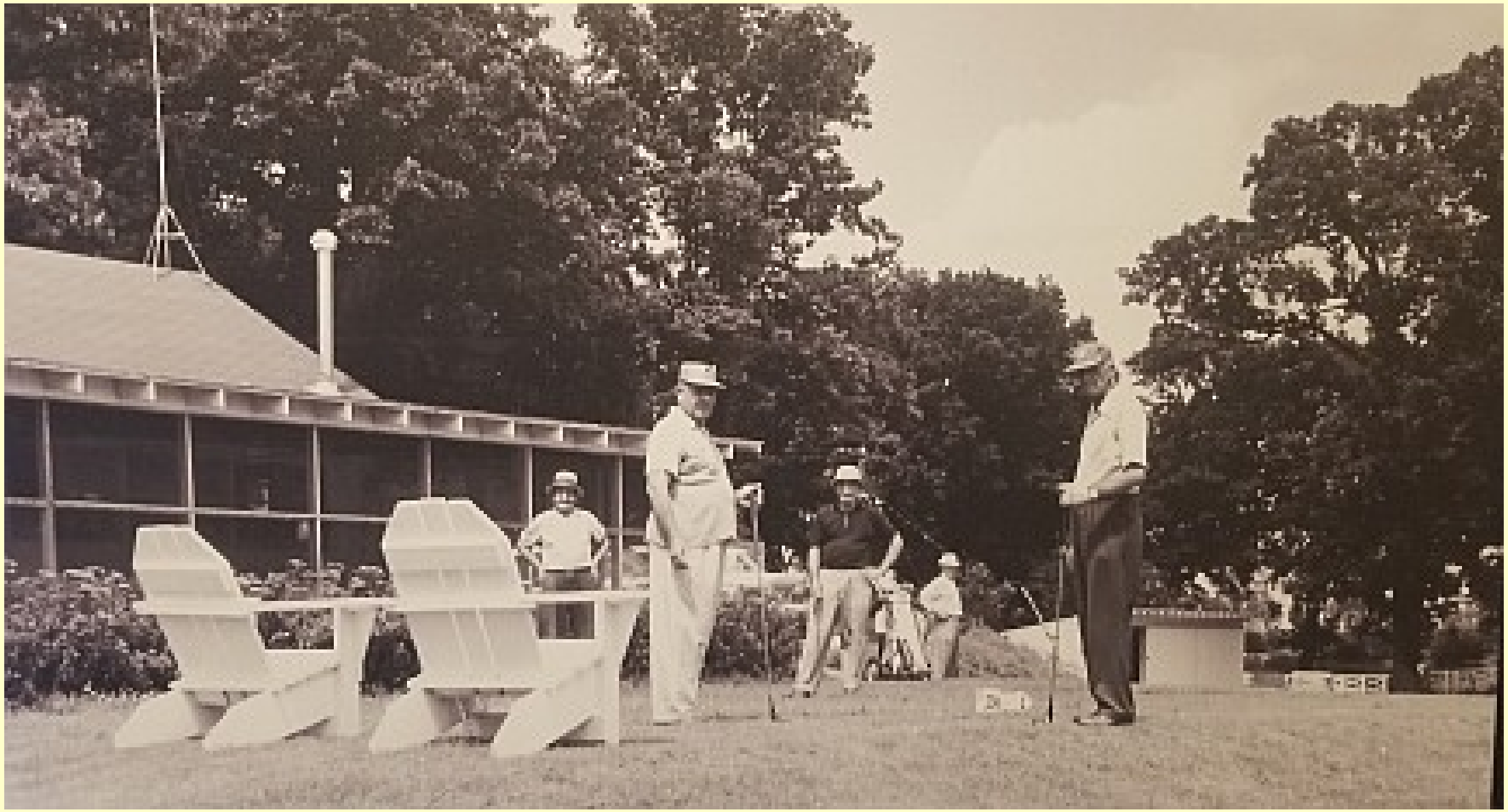
History of Golf Course



Note: Perry Munz house in background

History of Golf Course

History of Golf Course



History of Golf Course

History of Golf Course

- New clubhouse dedicated in July of 1948

- Potluck supper followed by golf tournament

- 140 people attended
  - -86 members
  - -30 guests
  - -26 children

- Fireworks over the golf course that evening

History of Golf Course

- Watt Nakamura was Fairbury Photographer
  - -was also “chicken sexer” for Honeggers
  - -He and his wife were avid golfers

- Watt shot 14-minute video at golf course circa 1960

- Family donated video to Fairbury Echoes Museum

- Video uploaded to YouTube
  - -Search for “Nakamura + Fairbury”

History of Golf Course

History of Golf Course

- 1968-1969 New Clubhouse
- Sand greens were replaced with grass greens
- New and much larger clubhouse built

History of Golf Course

- 1975 Pontiac Daily Leader

  "Indian Creek golf course one of the most beautiful and challenging courses in Central Illinois."

- Officers were:

  John Wade – President
  Ken Elliott – VP
  Jan Stephens – Secretary
  Jerry Dowling – Treasurer

History of Golf Course

- Directors:
  - Al Tavener
  - Milton Kinate
  - Bill Goslin

- Ron Dohman – Pro Shop
- Joe Keeley – Clubhouse Manager
- 420 Members

History of Golf Course

- 2019
  - -180 Members
  - -3 Leagues
  - -Full service restaurant

History of Golf Course

The End